



WORSHIP

resources for worship

Warren Howell, Editor

Find additional worship and Bible
study resources at



FAITHELEMENT

fresh.current.personal.

faithement.net

Faithement is a service of Faithlab LLC.

faithlab.com

December 29, 2019: First Sunday after Christmas - A

Color: White and Gold

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Isaiah 63:7-9](#) (Israel saved by God's own presence)

[Psalm 148](#) (The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven)

[Hebrews 2:10-18](#) (Christ shares flesh and blood to free humankind)

[Matthew 2:13-23](#) (The flight to Egypt by the Holy Family, the slaughter of the innocents)

Themes: Redemption/Salvation, Light, Praise, Children, Family, Lament, Herod, Jesus

FOCAL Faithelement PASSAGE: [Isaiah 63:7-19](#)

([Podcast](#) will be ready 2 weeks before date of use)

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information regarding writers, composers, alternate and associated texts and tunes, corresponding hymn numbers, and more. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts.

[Child in the Manger](#) (BUNESSAN)

[Go, Tell It On the Mountain](#) (GO TELL IT)

[From Heaven Above to Earth I Come](#) (VOM HIMMEL HOCH)

[The Hands that First Held Mary's Child](#) (KINGSFOLD)

[He Is Born](#) (IL EST NÉ)

[O Sing a Song of Bethlehem](#) (KINGSFOLD)

[Once in Royal David's City](#) (IRBY)

[Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne](#) (MARGARET)

[What Child is This](#) (GREENSLEEVES)

Before/During Prayer

[Emmanuel, Emmanuel](#) (MCGEE)

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Love came down at Christmas - E

Hal Hopson
Concordia Publishing House, 98-2985
2-Part Mixed, Organ

The Snow Lay on the Ground - E

Leo Sowerby
H.W. Gray (Alfred), 00-GCMR02240
Unison with Descant, Organ

Noels - E

George Baker, arr.
Gentry Publications, JG2261
SATB (2-part), Keyboard

Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year - E

Alfred Fedak
Concordia, 98-2691
2-Part Mixed, Organ

Walk in the Light - E

André Thomas
Choristers Guild, CGA 1062
Unison or 2-part, Piano

How Far Is It to Bethlehem - E

William M. Scholoenfield, arr.
GIA Publications, G-3181
Unison, Piano

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime - E

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, Robert Hobby, arr.
Concordia, 98-3240
Unison Mixed, Keyboard
opt. Handbells (9), Flute, perc.

Torches - E

John Joubert
Novello & Co., 884088430399
Unison, opt. 2-part, Organ

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

THAT HOLY THING

*THEY all were looking for a king
To slay their foes and lift them high:
Thou cam'st, a little baby thing
That made a woman cry.*

*O Son of Man, to right my lot
Naught but Thy presence can avail;
Yet on the road Thy wheels are not,
Nor on the sea Thy sail!*

*My how or when Thou wilt not heed,
But come down Thine own secret stair,
That Thou mayst answer all my need—
Yea, every bygone prayer.*

-- GEORGE MACDONALD (1824-1905)

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord! Heavens and heights,
Praise the Lord, you sky-bound shining lights!
Praise God, you hosts and messengers of the Most High.
Praise in the rain, and the snow, and the forest below!
Praise the Lord, you winds and seas,
Praise God, all you hand-clapping trees.
Every beast and bird and swimming thing,
creeping or crawling, your praises bring.
Every living, breathing thing, praise the Lord.
All heaven and nature sing: Praise the Lord!

QUOTE

"Hope is a refugee always on the road with no shoes or milk for the baby."

- Brian Doyle, in *A Shimmer of Something*

GATHERING PRAYER

Blessing and honor and glory and power be to you, O God,
for your love revealed in the Word made flesh,
that you came *and* come among us to share in our humanity,
that your light extends through all creation,
that you especially love children, asking us to learn from them:
that our eyes might be again filled with wonder, love, and trust.
Now open our eyes to see you and our hearts to worship you. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

You come to us in human flesh,
and we have wounded one another's bodies.
You come to us as helpless as a baby,
and we exploit the weaknesses of others.
You come to us as an outcast,
and we have hardened our hearts.
You have been called an outsider,
and we are suspicious of other cultures.
You were considered a threat to the establishment,
and we are anxious at the changes in systems.
Help us to approach ourselves and others with
respect, and welcome, and openness,
that we might be grateful members
of the world you came to save. Amen.

(inspired by: Jim Cotter, *UNFOLDING THE LIVING WORD*)

BENEDICTION

Beloved, let your light shine,
and know that by the sure grace of God,
the presence of Christ Jesus,
and the power of the Spirit,
you are being redeemed.
Go to serve the Lord. Amen.